



ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

for the Year 1939

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ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Staff

(1) Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Thomas Forsyth, M.B.  
Ch.B. (Glas), D.P.H. (Camb).

(2) Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (Full time) -  
George E. Marlow, M.Inst.M.& CY.E.Cert. R.S.I.

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To

The Chairman and Members of the  
Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary State of your District for the year 1939.

SECTION A :-

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	6,190 acres
Population	6,058
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,760
Rateable Value	£34600
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£144

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the District are:-

Agriculture, Coalmining, Earthenware, Brickmaking and Biscuit making. No Industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	75	39	36
	Illegitimate	3	1	2
		<u>78</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>38</u>

Birth Rate - 13.19 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Birth Rate, 1939 - 15.0 per 1000 population.

		Total	Male	Female
Still Births	Legitimate	9	5	4
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

Still Birth Rate - 103 per 1000 population. (Live and Still Births)  
or Still Birth Rate - 1.52 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Still Birth Rate - 0.59 per 1000 population.



DEATHS

Total	Male	Female
76	28	48

Death Rate - 12.54 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Death Rate, 1939 - 12.1 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

- (a) From Sepsis - Nil
- (b) From other Maternal Causes - 1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	6	2	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

Infantile Mortality Rate - 76 per 1000 Live Births.

England and Wales Infantile Mortality Rate - 50 per 1000 Live Births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants - 80 per 1000 Legitimate Live Births.

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants - Nil per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births.

Deaths occurred from the following diseases during 1939:-

Cancer	{ all ages }	5
Measles	{ all ages }	0
Diphtheria	{ all ages }	0
Whooping Cough	{ all ages }	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		0

Causes of Death in 1939

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ... ...	2	1	3
Other Tuberculosis ... ... ...	0	1	1
Cancer... ... ... ...	1	4	5
Diabetes. ... ... ... ...	1	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ... ...	2	4	6
Heart Disease. ... ... ... ...	10	15	25
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ... ...	1	5	6
Bronchitis ... ... ... ...	1	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)...	1	2	3
Peptic Ulcer . ... ... ...	1	0	1
Appendicitis . ... ... ...	0	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver. ... ... ...	0	1	1
Other Liver Diseases ... ... ...	0	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases ... ... ...	1	2	3
Nephritis ... ... ... ...	0	1	1
Other Puerperal Diseases ... ... ...	0	1	1
Congenital Deb. Premature Births etc...	2	3	5
Suicide ... ... ... ...	1	0	1
Other Violent Causes ... ... ...	2	0	2
Other defined Diseases.. ... ... ...	2	3	5
Ill defined or not known ... ... ...	0	1	1
Diarrhoea 2 years and over .. ... ...	0	1	1
	<u>28</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>76</u>

The chief Causes of Death in 1939 were:-

Heart Disease 25 - Cerebral Haemorrhage 6 - Other Circulatory Diseases 6 - Cancer 5 - Tuberculosis 4 - Pneumonia (all forms) 3 - Bronchitis 2



SECTION B :-

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Hospitals

Fever Hospitals are provided by the Leicestershire Combined Hospitals Committee for the treatment of Infectious Diseases at Markfield, Hinckley, Melton and Blaby. Markfield Isolation Hospital is nearest your District.

Smallpox Hospitals for the treatment of Smallpox are provided by the Leicestershire County Council at Snarestone (23 beds) and Syston (15 beds).

Tuberculosis The County Sanatorium at Markfield with 126 beds is adequately equipped for the diagnosis and treatment of all types of Tuberculosis.

Maternity Provision is made for cases requiring Institutional treatment in the Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital and in Leicester Royal Infirmary. The Maternity Wing of the Ashby Cottage Hospital is used by the residents from your Area and from the surrounding Areas.

Children Children are admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary and Loughborough Infirmary. Ashby Cottage Hospital admit children and many cases of Tonsils and adenoids, and other major operations such as Appendices were operated on by the Honorary Surgeon Mr. Holford, F.R.C.S.

Other Delicate and illnourished children (3 to 5 years) are admitted to the Childrens Convalescent Home, Woodhouse Eaves.

Ambulance Facilities:-

Infectious Diseases are removed in Ambulances provided by the Leicestershire Combined Isolation Hospitals Committee.

Non-Infectious Diseases and Civilian Accidents are transported by an Ambulance provided by the St. Johns' Ambulance Brigade stationed at Coalville.

Laboratory Facilities:-

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations are provided by the County Council Laboratory, Leicester.

Nursing in the Homes:-

The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Nursing Association provides a District Nurse. Infectious Diseases are not attended by the District Nurse. No provision is made for nursing such diseases as measles etc. in the homes.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:-

These are provided by the Leicestershire County Council. An Infant Welfare Centre is held weekly in the Baptist School-room, Brook Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The nearest School Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville. An Orthopaedic Clinic is held at Bridge Road, Coalville. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held weekly at Coalville. Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary.



## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### Water Supply

Water is supplied by the Swadlincote and Ashby Joint Water Board from the Milton Reservoir. With the exception of a few outlying properties, the whole of the Urban District is supplied with water from the Public Mains.

Frequent examinations (Chemical and Bacteriological) are made by the Swadlincote and Ashby Joint Water Board and the results are satisfactory.

No samples were taken from wells in 1939.

Number of wells closed ... ... ... ... ... 2

Number of wells cleansed etc ... ... ... ... 1

No. of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water... ... ... ... ... ... 2

There has been no shortage of water during 1939.

There has been no extension of Public Water supplies during the year.

### Drainage and Sewerage:-

Number of cesspools constructed during the year ... ... 4

Number of cesspools abolished during the year.. ... ... Nil

Total number in District on 31st. December, 1939 ... ... 158

No extensions to Public Sewers were carried out during the year. There were no extensions to Sewage Disposal Works during the year.

A scheme has been approved for extending the sewer along the Measham Road and the work will begin early in the new year.

A scheme is being prepared for the enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works situated near to Valley Farm, Willlesley.

### Closet Accommodation:-

Total number in District on 31st. December, 1939.

{1}	Privies	-----	77
{2}	Pail-Closets	---	43
(3)	Water-Closets	--	1110

Number of closets converted to the Water Carriage system during the year:-

{1}	Privies	Nil.
{2}	Pail-Closets	Nil.

Number of Privies (Middens) converted to pail-closets during the year:-

Nil.

### Public Cleansing:-

House Refuse is collected weekly by the Council's workmen with a covered Motor Vehicle and carted to a suitable tip where it is deposited in shallow layers and covered with earth.



## Public Cleansing (Contd.)

Earth Closets and Privies are emptied at night by Council Workmen and the contents carted on to suitable land and ploughed in.

Ashpits are emptied at regular intervals and the contents dealt with in the same manner as house refuse.

Cesspools are emptied quarterly by the Council workmen and the content carted on to land and ploughed in.

In the Parish of Blackfordby the removal and disposal of house refuse and the cleansing of earth-closets, privies and ashpits is carried out by a Contractor under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor and disposed of in a similar manner to that at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Two ashpits were abolished and eight galvanised iron dustbins provided in place thereof.

Thirty eight new dustbins were provided to replace unsuitable or defective receptacles.

### Smoke Abatement:-

No. of factories and works chimneys in District.	No. of smoke observations	Time limit allowed mins. per hour	No. of cases in which action was necessary
3	2	4	2

Three informal letters were written to owners of factories with regard to nuisances caused by smoke. Their abatement resulted.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

Total number of complaints received	... ... ... ...	34
Total number of nuisances or defects discovered	.. ... ..	332

### Nature of Inspections:-

	Inspections	Revisits
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	183	86
Tents, Vans etc.	1	-
Slaughter Houses	88	-
Food Premises	48	6
Dairies and Cowsheds	64	28
Offensive Trades	3	-
Animal keeping	6	2
Workshops etc.	-	-
Shops	10	5
Other Premises	205	131
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>258</b>



Notices:-

PRELIMINARY	HOUSING	OTHER
Outstanding on 1st. January, 1939.	4	6
Issued during year	196	116
Complied with during year	158	91
Statutory action necessary	38	26
Outstanding on 31st. December, 1939	4	5

STATUTORY	HOUSING	OTHER
Outstanding on 1st. January, 1939	9	6
Issued during year	38	26
Complied with during year	43	29
Outstanding on 31st. December, 1939	4	3

Summary Action

No. of Summonses Issued

Nil

No. of convictions obtained

Nil

SHOPS:-

Action taken during the year under the Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

	Outstanding from previous year.	Defects found	Defects Remedied	Outstanding 31st. Dec. 1939.
Sanitary Conven:	0	6	5	1
Temperature	0	0	0	0
Ventilation	0	0	0	0

CAMPING SITES:-

Nil.

REGULATED BUILDINGS:-

Regulated Buildings	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Action taken	General Conditions
Common Lodging Houses	1	4	Nil	Satisfactory
Tents, Vans etc.	1	1	Nil	Satisfactory
Canal Boats	Nil	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	1	3	Nil	Satisfactory



RADICATION OF BED BUGS:-

Number of Council houses infested ... ... ... ...	Nil
Number of other dwelling-houses found infested ... ...	2
Number of houses disinfested ... ... ... ...	2

The disinfection of the two dwelling-houses was carried out by the Local Authority by means of Fumigation with Cimex fumigator and spraying with Zaldecide.

SCHOOLS:-

- (a) Sanitary Conditions ... ... ... ... ... Satisfactory
- (b) Water Supply... ... ... ... From Public Mains.
- (c) No. of Schools disinfected and method employed .. None.

SWIMMING BATHS and POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Number in Area ... ... ...	{a} Publicly owned ... 1
	{b} Privately owned ... 0

Number of Inspections . ... ... ... ...	52
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There is a constant stream of clean water running through the Bath and the water is chlorinated at frequent intervals. The Bath is emptied, cleansed and refilled fortnightly.

Inspection and Supervision of FoodMILK SUPPLYCowkeepers.

Number on Register ... ... ... ... ...	36
Number of inspections made : ... ... ... ...	48
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year ..	4
Number of contraventions found during the year . ...	24
Number of contraventions remedied during year .. ...	22
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st. December ...	6

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than cowkeepers)

Number on Register ... ... ... ... ...	9
Number of inspections made : ... ... ... ...	16
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year ..	1
Number of contraventions found during the year . ...	8
Number of contraventions remedied during year .. ...	7
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st. December ...	2

Total Contraventions

	Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on 31st. December.
Cleansing	2	12	10	4
Structural Alterations	1	7	5	3
Utensils	-	3	3	-
Other	2	10	11	1

Milk Sampling

Class	Total No. of samples taken for exam.	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Designated	-	-	-
Ordinary	-	-	-



The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations  
1936 and 1938

Licences issued by Local Authorities.

No. of Licences issued in respect of

"Tuberculin Tested"			"Accredited"			"Pasteurised"		
Bottling	Distribution		Bottling	Distribution		Pasteurising	Retail Dis:	
Dealers	Supplementary		Dealers	Supplementary		plants	Dealers	Supp:ment:
-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Number of Public Abattoirs in District:- Nil

Private Slaughter Houses:-

In January, 1939. In December, 1939

Number Registered	5	4
Number Licensed	1	1

Number of visits to premises other than at times of slaughter.. 20

Number of inspections of meat at time of slaughter... ... ... 50

Number of Knacker Yards in District... ... ... ... ... 2

Number of visits to Knacker Yards ... ... ... ... ... 16

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle and Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Total weight in lbs.
Number killed (if known)	372	18	1425	402	
Number inspected	56	6	200	100	
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.					
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis.					



MEAT STALLS:-

Number of inspections ... ... ... ... ... ... Nil

MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES, ETC.

Number of inspections ... ... ... ... ... ... 38

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale.

Number of inspections ... ... ... ... ... ... 10

Three Informal Notices were issued requiring structural defects to be remedied.

The following were condemned and destroyed:-

40 lbs. chilled beef.  
20 lbs. canned ham.  
1 dzn. imported rabbits.

HOUSING

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... ... 183

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... 269

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932. ... 22

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... 49

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. ... 62

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ... ... ... ... ... 40

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ... ... ... ... 20

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

{a} by owners. ... ... ... ... ... 20  
{b} by Local Authority in default of owners. Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Healths Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. ... 16

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

{a} by owners. ... ... ... ... ... 14  
{b} by Local Authority in default of owners. Nil



(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Nil  
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... Nil  
 (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. ... ... ... Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, - PART 4 - OVERCROWDING:-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... ... 1  
 (2) Number of families dwelling therein. ... ... ... 1  
 (3) Number of persons dwelling therein.. ... ... ... 8

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year 4

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ... 3  
 (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ... ... 18

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. ... ... Nil

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1939.

DISEASES	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	25		
Diphtheria	14		
Pneumonia	2		
Erysipelas	5		
Puerperal Pyrexia	2		

Age Distribution of Cases of Infectious Diseases

Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia
0 - 1	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-
4 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	13	1	-	-



Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia
10 - 15	10	4	-	-
15 - 20	1	2	-	-
20 - 35	1	7	1	2
35 - 45	-	-	2	-
45 - 65	-	-	2	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-

Comparison of the Case Rates of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District with corresponding Case Rates for England and Wales, 1939.

Diseases	Ashby Urban District.	England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	4.1 per 1000 population.	1.89 per 1000 population.
Diphtheria	2.3 per 1000 population	1.14 per 1000 population
Erysipelas	0.82 per 1000 population	0.34 per 1000 population

#### Prevention of Blindness:-

No action was taken under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 for the prevention of blindness.

#### Tuberculosis:-

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respir:	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or under section 62 Public Health Act, 1925 or section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.



The District possesses two well equipped Parks (14 acres in all) for open air sports and recreation. The larger Park (The Hood Park) contains an Open-air Swimming Pool and a Childrens' Playground.

Both Parks and Swimming Pool were presented to the Town by the late Sir Joseph Hood Bart.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspector Mr. George E. Marlow for his very valuable help in compiling this Report. Many of the details are taken from his Annual Summary.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FORSYTH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

